

K2.0

**NO QUESTIONS
WITHOUT ANSWERS**

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A RESEARCH STUDY ON THE MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS OF THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:

Office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo;

Office of the Prime Minister;

Presidency of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo;

Office of the Chief State Prosecutor;

Kosovo Police.

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INTRODUCTION

Press conferences are spaces in which representatives of institutions inform the public regarding various policies, developments and different events. But at the same time, they are common spaces in which journalists and other civil society representatives should have the necessary space to address certain issues or to seek accountability regarding different public issues.

In reality in Kosovo, press conferences are often spaces for unilateral reports in which representatives of institutions express themselves regarding various issues and regularly do not take questions from journalists.

Additionally, a “safe” space through which representatives of institutions have recently decided to address citizens without taking questions or comments in return has been the sphere of social media. It seems the common spaces in which journalists can ask questions and raise issues for discussion is being substituted more and more with this unilateral method of communication.

Considering the fundamental importance of a free press and access to information in a functioning democracy, K2.0 has conducted this research study through which we aim to highlight the importance of creating an environment in which journalists are provided the necessary space to seek accountability for public issues and to challenge the statements of representatives of state institutions.

Over a period of four and a half months, we monitored a number of key public institutions and their interaction with journalists. In particular, this report provides data about the nature of communication between the media and the monitored institutions, including data about the number of press conferences held, the transparency of state institution representatives in these conferences, and the wider accessibility of institutions in relation to media requests and attempts by journalists to communicate.

This research study documents the situation that journalists face on a daily basis when attempting to access information from public institutions in Kosovo and provides an evidence base for the public, and journalists in particular, to refer to in the future.

METHODOLOGY

DURATION OF THE RESEARCH STUDY: The research study was conducted across a four-and-a-half-month monitoring phase, from October 15, 2018 to February 28, 2019

MONITORING TEAM: Field data regarding the public communication of the monitored institutions was gathered by 10 monitoring journalists who were selected from nine local media institutions, which include radio, press and TV media. The monitoring journalists were selected in collaboration with editors of respective institutions and based on their fields of expertise and on the institutions that they usually monitor as part of their daily work.

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH: Meetings with editors of various media institutions were conducted during this phase. After the monitoring journalists had been selected, a focus group was organized with them on November 10, 2018 with the aim of gaining insight into their thoughts and experiences regarding communication with the institutions that had been selected to be monitored.

MONITORED INSTITUTIONS: The following institutions were selected for monitoring: the Office of the President of the Republic of Kosovo; the Office of the Prime Minister; the Presidency of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo; the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor; and Kosovo Police.

These institutions were selected based on their importance to public life and the frequency of public appearances by their representatives.

MONITORING PROCESS: During the monitoring period, three means of communication from the selected institutions were monitored: press conferences, social media communication (including official press releases), and email correspondence.

For press conferences, journalists were equipped with a form consisting of questions regarding the proceedings of each conference held by a monitored institution that they attended; they were required to complete the questions after each conference. At the end of the monitoring period, all monitored institutions were contacted via official channels in order for the monitoring team to obtain the exact number of conferences that had been organized by the institutions.

Social network addresses were monitored through an analysis of institutional representatives' addresses on Facebook, both in terms of volume and the content of these addresses. The personal accounts of the prime minister, president and president of the Kosovo Assembly were monitored since, as per the existing regulations, they are managed by the information offices of each respective institution, and are also used for official announcements. The official Facebook account of Kosovo Police was also monitored, while the Chief State Prosecutor's Office does not have a Facebook account. The websites of the Kosovo Police and the Chief State Prosecutor's Office were monitored due to the fact that these two institutions particularly use their websites as channels of official communication.

To monitor email communication, the monitoring journalist were asked to record the number of questions they sent to the selected institutions during the monitoring period, as well as whether their questions were answered, not answered, or partially (incompletely) answered.

RELEVANT REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Of the five monitored institutions, three have drawn up publicly available internal regulations for public communication. The three approved regulations address general public communication, including communication with categories such as civil society and different interest groups that require access to their work.

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

The Presidency of the Republic of Kosovo does not have internal regulations for public communication.

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

Regulation (GRK) No. 27/2018 on the Government Public Communication Service, which entered into force on January 4, 2019, has been drawn up with the objective of coordinating and determining the functioning of a coherent system of government communication with the public. It is comprised of a total of 25 articles that determine different aspects of communication between institutions and the

public at all levels — namely the central, local and international levels — including accredited journalists.

Most relevantly, through Article 3 and all its sub-paragraphs — with a particular focus on Sub-paragraph 1.3 — the regulations mention the obligation of institutions for “Clear, responsible and timely communication.”¹

However, the regulations do not specify what is considered clear, responsible and timely communication.

Moreover, Article 8 of this regulation, lists the functions of the Public Communication Office in the Office of the Prime Ministry, and includes communication with the media and providing answers for questions made by journalists.

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO ASSEMBLY

The Regulation for the Order and Access of the Media and the Public to the Work of the Kosovo Assembly, which has been in force since April 19, 2011 and is comprised of 5 headings and 32 rules, is the document that regulates the external communication of the Kosovo Assembly. It includes regulations on the responsibilities of the Assembly team, access to

¹ Regulation (GRK) No. 27/2018 On the Government Public Communication Service, approved in the 80th meeting of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, under the decision no. 01/80, date 18/12/2018

official documents, the Assembly webpage, steps that must be followed by the media in order to receive accreditation and every other aspect of the Assembly's communication that is interconnected with the media, including the locations the media may access in certain cases and information relating to their daily work in the Assembly.

This regulation, unlike the regulation of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, has a special rule that is exclusive to press conferences, namely Rule 11, which is comprised of 3 points that determine the way in which press conferences are called, who organizes them and when they can be held. Shortly put, the main duty in this regard falls on the cabinet of the President of the Assembly and the Office for Media and Public Relations.

However, parliamentary groups have more independence in communication with the media and organization of press conferences. The communication of parliamentary groups can be determined, beyond the Assembly regulations, by their own internal regulations (regulated through Rule 18 — Specificities of Communication).

The Kosovo Assembly's regulation is more specific than the Government of the Republic of Kosovo's in regard to deadlines for responding to written requests by the media, as it determines that the Office for Media and Public Relations must notify the media within the day about when they will respond with an answer.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE PROSECUTOR

Throughout the monitoring period, the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor had Regulation No. 06/2016 on Communication With the Public, which entered into force on May 17, 2016 and is comprised of 17 articles (a new regulation, Regulation No. 04/2019 on the Public Communication Service in the Prosecution System, subsequently came into force on May 1, 2019); it also has a Communication Strategy of the Prosecutorial System 2018-2020.

Regulation No. 06/2016 determines the Office for Public Communication within the Kosovo Prosecutorial Council as the point of contact for the public (Article 7) and as such gives this office an essential role in providing information. Regarding the chief state prosecutor, the Public Communication Office within the Office of the Chief State Prosecutor is responsible for providing information to the public (Article 8).

In the section that outlines the methods of communication, namely Article 10, Paragraph 1.4, press conferences for issues of public importance are listed as a communication tool.

The Communication Strategy of the Prosecutorial System 2018-2020 includes the mobilization of this institution for increasing the quality and intensity of its communication, with the ultimate objective of improving the public perception of the prosecutorial system and increasing the trust of citizens in the work of the system.²

Concretely, one of the first steps that this institution aims to undertake to achieve Objective 1 of the strategy, namely to increase the level of trust in Kosovo's prosecutorial system, is to organize press conferences on a regular basis. The work plan that is outlined in the strategy states that the institution aims to organize press conferences four times per year, one every three months.

The second objective of the strategy is improving cooperation with the media. The State Prosecutor aims to achieve this by increasing human resources for media communication, increasing the capacity of media officials and prosecutors, and by increasing the capacity of journalists that cover the justice sector, in collaboration with the Association of Journalists of Kosovo.

KOSOVO POLICE

Kosovo Police spokespeople say that internal regulations for public communication exist but that the document is part of a list of confidential documents that one needs permission to access.

² The Communication Strategy of the Prosecutorial System 2018-2020.

OF THE FIVE MONITORED
INSTITUTIONS, **THREE** HAVE
DRAWN UP PUBLICALLY
AVAILABLE INTERNAL
REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC
COMMUNICATION.

STUDY

RESULTS

GENERAL DATA

In total during the monitoring period, 62 press conferences were held, 52 of which were monitored. Five out of the 10 conferences that were not monitored were held abroad by the president, whereas the other five were not monitored due to various reasons relating to the editorial priorities of the media in which the monitoring journalists were engaged.

Of the 52 monitored press conferences, 43 were open for questions, while nine were not open for questions. Press conferences ranged in duration from just one minute

to 25 minutes, with the average duration of monitored conferences standing at 11.3 minutes.

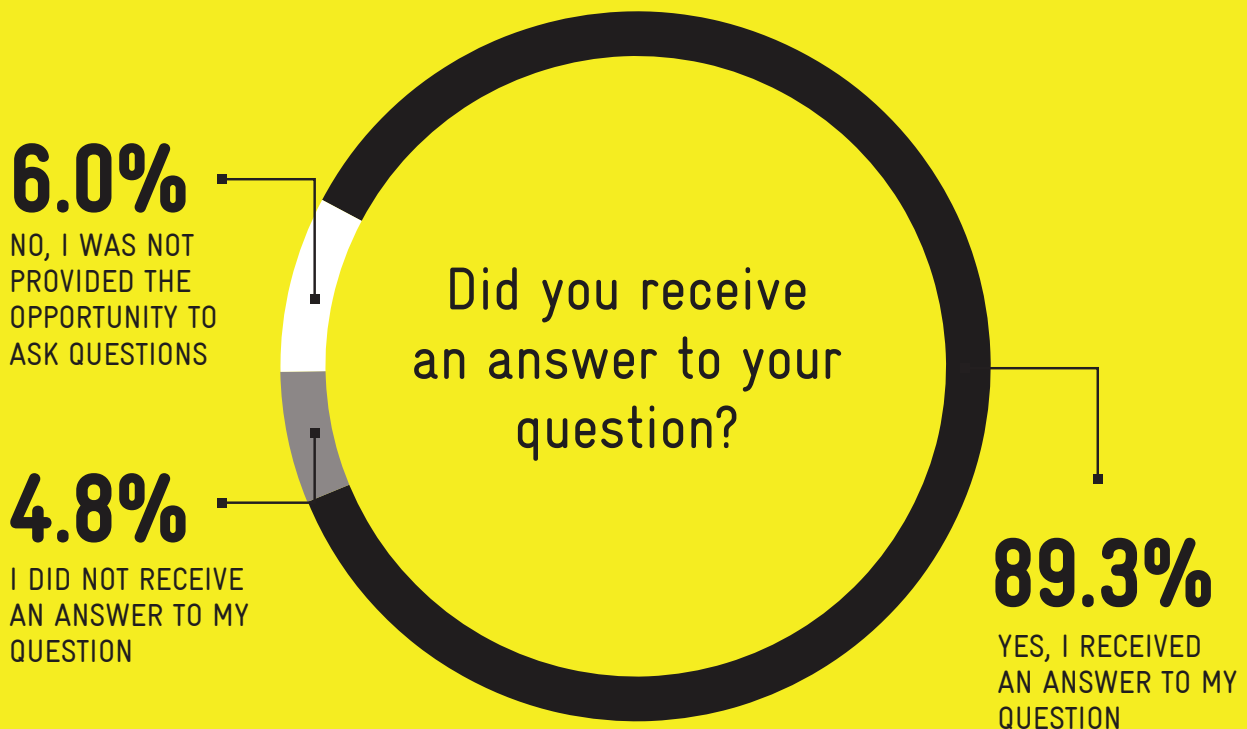
A common element of all monitored institutions is that the longest conferences are the ones held at the end of the year, at which institutions present their work and the results that they have achieved throughout the year.

Of those press conferences that were open for questions, the highest number of questions asked was 13 and the lowest was one, with an average of 4.1 questions asked.

Conferences held	62
Monitored conferences	52
Conferences that were open for questions	44
Conferences that were not open for questions	8
Average duration of monitored conferences	11.30 mins
Monitored conference with the longest duration	25 mins
Monitored conference with the shortest duration	1 mins
Average number of questions in monitored conferences	4.1
Highest number of questions in conference	13
Lowest number of questions in conference that was not open for questions	1

QUESTION

1

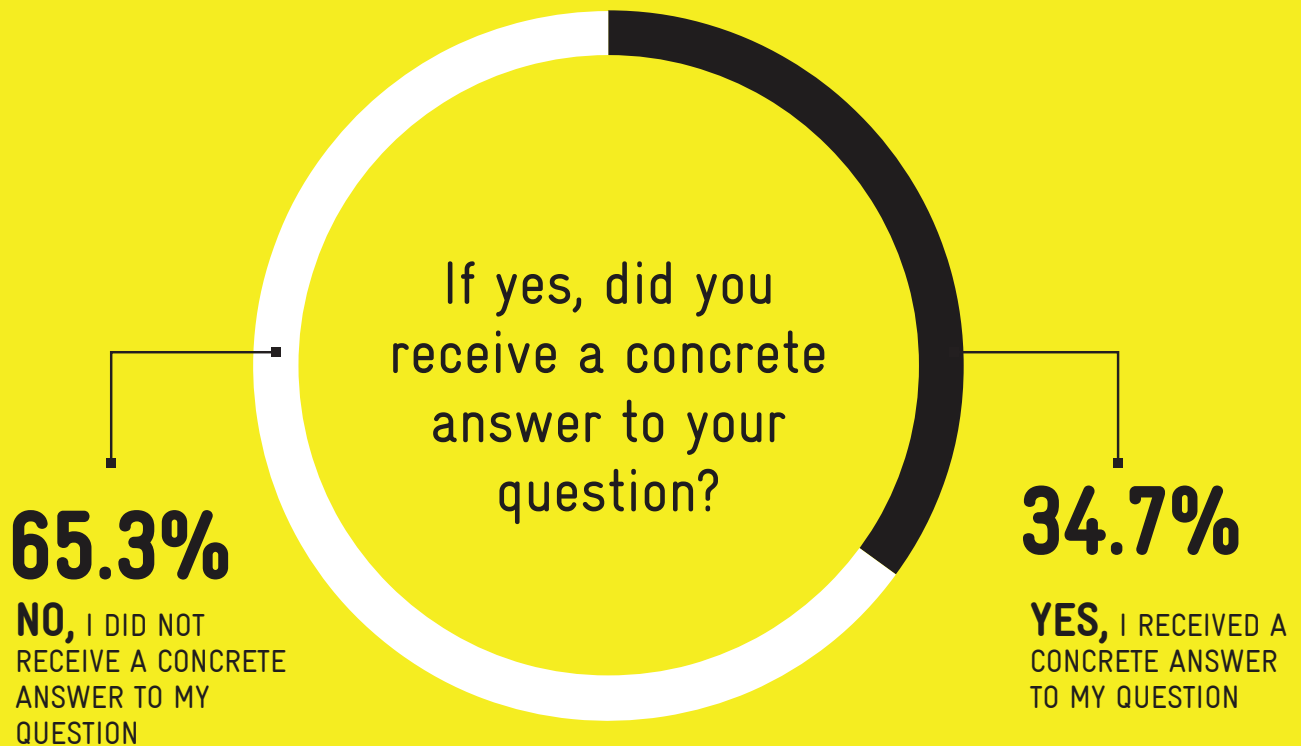


REGARDING THE QUESTION "DID YOU RECEIVE AN ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION?"

Which was asked to monitoring journalists in each monitored case in which they attempted to ask questions, in 75 cases they stated that they received answers to their questions; in five cases they stated that they were not provided the opportunity to ask questions; in four cases they stated that they were provided the opportunity to ask questions but that the director of the conference refused to answer their questions.

QUESTION

2



REGARDING THE QUESTION "IF YES, DID YOU RECEIVE A CONCRETE ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION?"

Of the 75 cases in which they asked questions, the monitoring journalists stated that only in 26 cases did they receive concrete answers, whereas in 49 cases they received partial or not concrete answers.

DATA FROM EMAIL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MONITORING JOURNALISTS AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

During the research period, monitoring journalists sent a total of 152 emails to public institutions, of which 76 were answered — precisely half. In 26 of these cases, the monitoring journalists stated that the answers they received were partial or not concrete.

This means that only 50 email requests by journalists to public institutions during this period — or one third of the total requests made — were met with a clear or adequate response.

DATA FROM OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Throughout the monitoring period of this report alone, representatives of monitored institutions wrote over 1,000 addresses through Facebook. They utilized this method to communicate different things, from more personal issues to the most important state issues.

When compared with the 65 press conferences held by the monitored institutions in the same period, for every

press conference held there were 16.6 addresses written through Facebook. In other words, this means that for every opportunity that journalists have to ask questions and raise issues, there are 16.6 cases in which they are forced to take statements through social media by state institution representatives for granted and are unable to challenge them.

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICIALS

Journalists involved in the monitoring process raised concerns about the role of communications officials within the monitoring institutions. Despite regulations — such as those listing the functions of the Public Communications Office within the Office of the Prime Minister — specifically listing their duty as providing answers to the media, journalists say that these officials are excluded from key roles during press conferences and are subsequently not able to answer important questions regarding their institutions.

Data gathered from the monitoring process shows that with very few exceptions, in cases when they appear in press conferences with other public sector representatives, leaders of the monitored institutions direct the conferences themselves.

Even in virtual communication such as through email, these officials have also shown an inability to provide answers in regard to the policies of the institutions in which they are engaged to communicate with the public.

Considering the gap created by the lack of quick access to information through virtual communication, press conferences often tend to be utilized for asking questions that are not related to the issues for which the conferences

were called. Sometimes, even if the prescribed issue does not interest editorial offices, journalists partake nonetheless so that they can benefit from the space by getting answers that are not provided to them through other channels of official communication.

According to observations by monitoring journalists, the role of public communication offices within certain institutions is formed according to the people that are leading these respective institutions, rather than being defined by public communication regulations. Often, individuals who take over the headship in these institutions do not trust information officials, and as such the latter's roles are reduced to conducting technical work, whereas they are substituted by media consultants who are assigned as political staff of the leaders.

For journalists, the simultaneous presence of information coordinators or consultants and information offices or officials is confusing because they often find themselves in situations in which they are unsure to which institution they need to address their questions. By engaging media consultants or coordinators, institutional representatives are in a way paralyzing the work of information offices in relation to these respective institutions.

Conferences held	10	Monitored conference with shortest duration	8 mins
Conferences monitored	5	Average number of questions in monitored conferences	6
Conferences open for questions	4	Highest number of questions in a conference	13
Conferences not open for questions	1	Lowest number of questions in a conference open for questions	4
Average duration of monitored conferences	15.6 mins	Addresses on Facebook	230
Monitored conference with longest duration	25 mins		

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

Of the 10 press conferences that were organized in total by the Office of the President of Kosovo during the monitoring period, five were monitored, while the other five were held abroad and were not monitored for practical reasons.

Of the five monitored press conferences, only one was not open for questions. This conference lasted only eight minutes and was announced only a few hours in advance. The conference was held on December 16, 2018, at the Prishtina International Airport, a few minutes before the president traveled to an urgent meeting organized by the United Nations Security Council in which the topic of the establishment of Kosovo's Army was discussed.

According to monitoring journalists, press conferences called by the president receive particular media attention because big topics (i.e. territory, the army) are always discussed at these conferences.

Of the monitored press conferences, the longest lasted 25 minutes and the shortest eight minutes; the average press conference duration was 15.6 minutes.

The lowest number of questions asked was 4 and the highest was 13; there were an average of six questions asked per press conference.

Conferences held	34
Conferences monitored	30
Conferences open for questions	27
Conferences not open for questions	3
Average duration of monitored conference	11.8 mins
Monitored conference with the longest duration	25 mins

Monitored conference with the shortest duration	1 min
Average number of questions in monitored conferences	4.6
Highest number of questions in monitored conferences	13
Lowest number of questions in conferences open for questions	3
Addresses on Facebook	433

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

The Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo is the institution with the highest number of press conferences called during the monitoring period.

The greatest number of conferences were held after regular government meetings in which various issues of public interest had been discussed. However, given that regular conferences after government meetings are the only space for journalists to communicate directly with the prime minister, in almost all cases this space is used to ask questions about current state issues and not about topics that are discussed in the preceding government meetings, which could be of great importance to citizens.

Of 30 monitored conferences that were organized by the Office of the Prime Minister, three were not open for questions. Of the three conferences that were not open for questions, the conference that was held on November 6, 2018, together with Austrian chancellor Sebastian Kurz, was held without prior notice and only journalists who happened to be present in the Office of the Prime Minister were invited to participate in the conference after the government meeting.

Another conference that was not open for questions was held on October 23, 2018. It lasted one minute, and consisted of the prime minister speaking about the process of transforming the Kosovo Security Force into an army and the attitudes of international partners in relation to this issue.

The other conference that was not open for questions was held by the prime minister, together with his political advisor Besnik Tahiri, on January 20, 2019; the topic was the strike in the education sector. These conferences were the shortest, because they only consisted of statements regarding the preceding meetings, without questions being taken.

The monitored press conferences by the Office of the Prime Minister ranged in length from just one minute to 25 minutes, with an average duration of 11.8 minutes. Of those press conferences open for questions, the most questions asked in a conference was 13 and the fewest was three, with an average of 4.6 questions per conference.

The Prime Minister's Office made significantly more Facebook addresses (433) during this period than any other monitored institution; this equates to 12.7 Facebook addresses for every press conference held.

Conferences held	13	Monitored conference with the shortest duration	1 min
Conferences monitored	13	Average number of questions in monitored conferences	2.6
Conferences open for questions	11	Highest number of questions in a conference	6
Conferences not open for questions	2	Lowest number of questions in a conference open for questions	2
Average duration of monitored conferences	7.5 mins	Addresses on Facebook	146
Monitored conference with the longest duration	15 mins		

PRESIDENCY OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

All 13 conferences that were organized by the Presidency of the Assembly were monitored.

Of these conferences, two were not open for questions. The issues that were dealt with in these two conferences were: the 100 percent tax that was imposed on products from Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, in a conference held on February 23, 2019, announced one day in advance and only headed by the President of the Assembly; and the criminal case in which a minor in Drenas was sexually harassed, raped and illegally forced to abort, in a conference that was organized on February 8, 2019 after a meeting of the Presidency of the Assembly in which this issue had been discussed.

The longest press conference during this period lasted 15 minutes and the shortest just one minute; the average length was 7.5 minutes.

The number of questions asked in those press conferences open to questions ranged from two to six, with an average of 2.6 questions per conference.

The President of the Assembly made 146 addresses on Facebook during the monitoring period, meaning 11.3 addresses for every press conference held.

Conferences held	0
Conferences monitored	
Conferences open for questions	
Conferences not open for questions	
Average duration of monitored conferences	
Monitored conference with longest duration	

Monitored conference with shortest duration	
Average number of questions in monitored conferences	
Highest number of questions in conferences	
Lowest number of questions in conferences open for questions	
Addresses on Facebook	
Press releases	277

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF STATE PROSECUTOR

The Office of the Chief State Prosecutor did not organize any press conferences during the four-and-a-half-month monitoring period despite the stated action in its Communications Strategy of organizing a press conference every three months.

According to monitoring journalists, this institution is the most difficult in regards to media access because its internal functioning structure is quite complex. The engagement of “information coordinators,” who simultaneously serve as prosecutors or deputy prosecutors at different judicial levels, has marginalized the competences of the Public Communication Office of the Chief State Prosecutor.

Answers provided by the Public Communication Office of the Chief State Prosecutor are always superficial, according to monitoring journalists. To receive concrete answers regarding issues that they deal with, journalists are forced to find alternative forms of communication with information coordinators.

According to monitoring journalists, the process of contacting information officers within the Public Communication Office of this institution is inefficient because even when they do respond they are unable to provide answers without initially consulting prosecutors, thereby prolonging the process of securing information. Therefore, journalists sidestep the Public Communication Office and find other methods to secure information more quickly.

Despite the high number of press releases on the official page of the State Prosecutor — 277 were issued during the monitoring period — journalists are not provided any space for mutual communication. Throughout the research period alone, monitoring journalists sent four emails with a total of 12 questions to the Public Communication Office of the Chief State Prosecutor, but received no reply.

Conferences held	5
Conferences monitored	4
Conferences open for questions	2
Conferences not open for questions	2
Average duration of monitored conferences	14.5 mins
Monitored conference with the longest duration	20 mins

Monitored conference with the shortest duration	5 mins
Average number of questions in monitored conferences	2
Highest number of questions in conferences	5
Lowest number of questions in conferences not open for questions	3
Addresses on Facebook	200
Press releases	152

KOSOVO POLICE

Of the five conferences organized by Kosovo Police during the monitoring period, four were monitored. Of these, two were not open for questions; one was organized to inform the public of a series of police operations to arrest individuals involved in criminal offenses, with a particular focus on robberies; the other conference was held to present the results of the work conducted by Kosovo Police during 2018.

The shortest Kosovo Police press conference monitored lasted just 5 minutes and the longest lasted 20 minutes, with an average duration of 14.5 minutes.

During the monitoring period, Kosovo Police made 200 addresses on Facebook — equivalent to 40 for every press conference held — and issued 152 press releases.

CONCLUSIONS

The majority of monitored press conferences were open for questions, however in regard to communication between institutional representatives and journalists, the principle of transparency is not being respected.

Although the term transparency is mentioned multiple times in strategies and regulations that determine institutional communication with journalists, the latter regularly face situations in which they are de facto allowed to ask questions and receive answers but where the answers are generalized and provide no concrete information in relation to the questions that they ask. Moreover, the duration of press conferences is short, relative to the number of media representatives that partake in them. Seeing that most conferences that were monitored as part of this research study ended when institutional representatives left the hall or the conference space, and not when the questions from journalists had been completely exhausted, journalists are often left without space to ask questions or express requests.

Although the presence of social media has intensified communication between institutional representatives and the public in general and has brought the two parties closer to one another, this communication remains one sided and not open to genuine challenge. Social media has facilitated quick communication between institutional representatives and the public, but has simultaneously made the work of journalists more difficult, because statements addressed on social media are often used as justifications by institutional representatives for refusing to be publicly challenged in regard to different issues of public interest.

The problem with the lack of respect for the principle of transparency is also reflected in electronic communication between journalists and representatives of communications offices within institutions, or by the media advisers of institutional representatives. In addition to the issue of transparency, electronic communication is also characterized by a problem of a structural nature when it comes to media communication by institutional bodies. The presence of both communication offices and media advisers, and the lack of clarity in regard to the role of these two structural levels, which are obliged to enable efficient communication between the institution and media representatives, causes confusion among journalists who face situations in which they are not sure who to address for their issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INSTITUTIONS:

- Public representatives in public positions who speak in press conferences should take a step back in the coordination of press conferences, and encourage press or information officers to take the lead.
- The overall position of the communication or information official should be actively used. Currently this figure is often a mere passive intermediary, rather than a person who actively assists and provides information to journalists. Their role in press conferences is especially passive, leaving all the power to direct journalists' access during the time for questions to the public leader that is speaking in such press conferences. This practice can endanger diversity and limit the access of critical journalists, whereas press officers should ensure the right to ask for all.
- Weekly press conferences should continue to be offered after government meetings, but they should be expanded and diversified to include ministers relevant to the core topics that were discussed. Overall, the number of organized press conferences over the monitoring period across all institutions was low. While, in general, the same leaders in these institutions are more or less accessible (i.e. in the Assembly corridors, in other types of events, through press releases, etc.), the setup of a press conference offers an open scenario where journalists are allowed to bring up issues that may be unexpected, critical, or often ignored via other channels of communications, with the added exposure to the public.
- In the case of government and ministries, in the event of not having the availability to offer such press conferences on occasion, the government's spokesperson should be active and appear in front of the media to speak on behalf of the government.
- Information Offices and officials within institutions should ensure they always reply to questions from journalists in a timely manner. While the length of time required to adequately respond to journalists' questions will inevitably vary from request to request, the word "timely" should be respected and journalists should be kept reliably informed about when they can expect to receive a full answer.
- Although the Police and the Chief State Prosecutor's Office have a different approach to the media than other institutions and cases are at times sensitive, the number of their press conferences is very low. More opportunities to interact with the media in a public forum should be created. The Chief State Prosecutor's Office should begin by implementing its own Communication Strategy, which says that it will hold a press conference every three months.
- Social media should be encouraged among public leaders to interact with citizens, however, it should not be used as a replacement of press conferences or press interaction. New information, policies, or statements regarding ongoing events that imply decision making can hardly be questioned, contrasted or verified in a timely manner (before they reach the public at large) when they are published on social media. Press conferences should be called even in an ad-hoc manner if there is an interest to reach the public for important issues in order to allow journalists to follow up with questions.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MEDIA:

- When press conferences do not allow time or space for questions, this should be actively mentioned in the journalists' report covering the information related to that press conference by simply adding this fact to their piece. This will allow the press to give visibility to such a problem, and stop the normalization of this practice. Ultimately, if this occurs, citizens have the right to know and it should be reported.
- Press conferences are a vital space for the media in every country. Journalists should be encouraged to make use of such press conferences through challenging questioning to further their reports, and to seek a stronger report that goes beyond the politicians' unilateral statements, and prior set themes.
- In the case that press conferences without questions become a regular event, or when such questionless press conferences are especially organized for issues of extreme public interest, editors and journalists across newsrooms should work together to find a common mechanism of pressure, in order to reject press conferences that do not allow questions, and to enable them to fulfill their role to inform citizens. Measures of joint pressure could include reporting about the specific case, or even coming together to reject the coverage of those press conferences unless questions are accepted. Given the sensitivity of the issue and the consequences of those actions, this is a necessary conversation that editors and journalists across newsrooms need to have, with the goal of finding a common approach.

DOCUMENTS:

- 1.** *Regulation (GRK) No. 27/2018 on the Government Public Communication Service*, approved in the 80th meeting of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, under decision No. 01/80, date 18/12/2018.
- 2.** *Regulation No. 06/2016 on Communication With the Public*, approved by Prosecutorial Council of Kosovo, date 27/05/2016.
- 3.** *Regulation on the Order and Access of the Media and the Public to the Work of the Kosovo Assembly*, date 19/04/2011.
- 4.** *The Communication Strategy of the Prosecutorial System 2018-2020*.

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